

(BP)

-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Herb Hollinger, Vice President
Fax (615) 742-8919
CompuServe ID# 70420,17

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Martin King, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 898-7522
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 333 N. Washington, Dallas, Texas 75246-1798, Telephone (214) 828-5232
NASHVILLE 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va., 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Tom Strode, Chief, 400 North Capitol St., #594, Washington, D.C. 20001, Telephone (202) 638-3223

September 10, 1993

93-152

NASHVILLE -- President Clinton to meet with SBC leaders Sept. 14.
NASHVILLE -- Orlando SBC housing requests should be postmarked Oct. 1.
TENNESSEE -- Kentuckian to lead BookLink ministry.
NASHVILLE -- Broadman & Holman cited in 'top ten.'
CALIFORNIA -- GGBTS prof advocates partnerships with church.
FLORIDA -- Church places priority on Vacation Bible School.

President Clinton to meet
with SBC leaders Sept. 14

By Herb Hollinger

Baptist Press
9/10/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--President Clinton has agreed to meet with two Southern Baptist Convention leaders in a Sept. 14 meeting at the White House, according to Rex M. Horne Jr., pastor of Clinton's home church, Immanuel Baptist in Little Rock, Ark.

Horne, who said he has been working on "getting the leaders together" for several months, told Baptist Press that Houston pastor and SBC President Ed Young and SBC Executive Committee President Morris H. Chapman will meet with Clinton for at least one-half hour at the White House. Horne will provide the introductions, he said, but there is no set agenda or prescribed discussion.

"I just wanted to get them face-to-face," Horne said, "and, hopefully, it will be conducive for future communications."

Horne said this meeting has nothing to do with a large, interfaith gathering held at the White House Aug. 30 with President Clinton but to which no SBC leader was invited.

That meeting was handled by an interfaith team and White House staff while the president was on vacation, said Horne, who was present at that meeting.

The 3 p.m. Sept. 14 meeting, even though with no set agenda, could give SBC leaders an opportunity to discuss with the president some of their objections to his policies, especially regarding Clinton's policies on abortion and homosexuality in the military.

Horne said the SBC leaders have not been asked to "check their convictions at the door" and there probably would be opportunity for both parties to discuss such issues.

The Southern Baptist Convention in June passed a resolution urging Clinton to reverse his stances on abortion and homosexuality.

Chapman, a former SBC president, told Baptist Press he preferred not to comment until after the meeting and BP was unable to reach Young.

Horne said James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and a former SBC president, also was invited but is unable to attend the meeting.

Also scheduled to be at the meeting is Wendell R. Estep, pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., who, according to Horne, knows President Clinton from a time when Estep was pastor to Oklahoma's governor and Clinton was governor of Arkansas. Estep and Horne are longtime friends.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

**Orlando SBC housing requests
should be postmarked Oct. 1**

NASHVILLE (BP)--Hotel reservations for the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting should be mailed Oct. 1, according to convention manager Jack Wilkerson.

The meeting will be June 14-16 in the Orange County Convention/Civic Center in Orlando, Fla.

The SBC Housing Guide and Request Form can be obtained from the offices of state Baptist convention executive directors and the September issue of the Baptist Program magazine published by the SBC Executive Committee.

The forms provide complete instructions for filing, Wilkerson said. They also list hotels in the 6,500-room Southern Baptist block, their rates and distances from the convention center.

Reservations must be postmarked on or after Oct. 1, 1993, and will be made on a first-come, first-served basis through the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau's computerized housing system.

Individual registrants may not submit more than one request per person. Multiple registrants may submit no more than 10 individual requests in the same envelope.

However, information about requesting group housing for 50 or more people can be obtained by writing to the SBC Housing Information Office, 901 Commerce St., Suite 750, Nashville, TN 37203.

--30--

**Kentuckian to lead
BookLink ministry**

By Steve Barber

Baptist Press
9/10/93

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--The National Fellowship of Baptist Educators' BookLink ministry, which provides Christian reference and study books for Southern Baptist missionaries and national pastors, has a new executive secretary.

Olin D. Williams, 63, of Eubank, Ky., will serve as the volunteer director for BookLink, succeeding B. Hal Buchanan of Tupelo, Miss., who was instrumental in the ministry's founding in 1988.

Williams was a public school teacher in Germantown and Miamisburg, Ohio, for 29 years and has served Southern Baptist churches and associations as a deacon and Sunday school director in Kentucky and Ohio. As a lay evangelist, he has preached in 76 churches in 11 states, as well as overseas, since 1985. He now serves as moderator of the Lincoln County Baptist Association in Stanford, Ky.

BookLink receives ongoing requests from missionaries overseas. Needed most are English-language study tools, including concordances, commentaries, Bible handbooks and Bible dictionaries.

Since its inception, BookLink has shipped more than 75,000 books, tapes, tracts and other items to 57 countries and five states. Donors of materials may reach BookLink at 1-800-467-2413.

The educators' fellowship is one of 14 under the umbrella of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Missions, based at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

--30--

**Broadman & Holman
cited in 'top ten'**

Baptist Press
9/10/93

NASHVILLE (BP)--Broadman & Holman Publishers, the publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been ranked number nine in the "top ten" Christian publishers, according to "Christian Retailing" magazine.

--more--

"Seldom do companies even attempt, let alone pull off, the major overhaul Broadman & Holman started in August 1992," the magazine reported in its Sept. 5 issue. "Though it's too soon to predict results, early indicators suggest that other publishers better start keeping an eye on B&H."

B&H emerged ninth in the top 10 list, based on responses to questionnaires sent to 1,011 retailers.

In categories rated by the respondents, B&H ranked seventh in pricing, third in receipt of merchandise, fourth in customer service and ninth in sales representatives.

--30--

GGBTS prof advocates
partnerships with church

By Cameron Crabtree

Baptist Press
9/10/93

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Closer "working relationships" between seminaries and local churches play a key role in better preparing leaders for ministry, a professor told faculty and students at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's convocation Sept. 9.

"The church's and the seminary's effectiveness are closely tied to each other," said Ron Hornecker, associate professor of ministry and director of supervised ministry at Golden Gate.

Hornecker, who along with another seminary professor and one of their students, successfully planted a church near the seminary's Mill Valley, Calif., campus, recommended viewing ministry settings as a more integral part of the seminary's teaching and learning environment.

"It will mean helping churches see the contribution they can make to the shaping and molding of persons for ministry," he said. "It also will mean paying more attention to the needs of the church, the implications of those needs in regard to our teaching and making more assignments which involve students in some aspect of local ministry."

More contact between local pastors and faculty is needed, Hornecker added. "We can identify through intentional dialogues the issues with which pastors are struggling ... and the implications of those issues for what we teach."

Faculty members also should take sabbaticals in church settings, Hornecker said. This approach, advocated in a 1993 study commissioned by seven evangelical seminaries, suggested switching roles for short periods of time -- pastors teaching in seminaries and faculty members taking staff positions in churches.

Hornecker also pointed to the value of taking short-term workshops to church leaders in their setting.

"Such workshops could result in further dialogue between faculty and pastors and staff and probably would affect what and how we teach seminary students," he said. "It could also open the possibility for closer relationships between pastors and faculty which could, in turn, affect how pastors and staff minister."

Hornecker urged seminaries to adopt a "more holistic" approach and a more "balanced focus" in three areas:

-- spiritual formation. "Persons who graduate from seminary need to be as whole and as healthy as we can help them to be. They need to perceive themselves as rightly related to God, to self and to others. If a student has significant problems in this area, all the skills and knowledge a person can amass will not enable that person to be effective in ministry."

-- cognitive. "This involves helping persons acquire the necessary cognitive information and understandings to enable them to function effectively." Faculty members must be "much more relational" in their teaching approaches, Hornecker said, with an understanding of the different ways students learn.

--more--

-- skills development. "Persons who graduate from seminary should have the ability to do the basic functions that relate to their vocational task. They should also have the ability to understand and deal with systems and power structures, to contextualize, to understand and deal with interpersonal conflict, to lead persons and/or organizations in an effective way and to integrate their theological understandings with how they function in ministry."

It is essential to make adjustments in teaching methodology for better integration of a person's seminary experience, Hornecker said.

"Attention to integration could assist us with more application of the conceptual, either through actually moving people into ministry situations or by finding ways to help them make the application," he said. "Too often we are fragmented -- teaching various courses, but never bringing subjects together to discover the relationships between the theoretical and how we live it out in the practice of local ministry."

Seminary graduates are judged not only on what they know, but on what they can do, Hornecker said. "And perhaps of even greater significance, they are judged on those intangible qualities of spirituality, interpersonal relationship skills and the ability to effectively lead," he added.

Noting much of the criticism which seminaries face today points to the need for addressing the "realities of ministry" and the transition from classroom to ministry setting, Hornecker said, "We do not want present and future students to look back on their experience here and feel that we did not assist them in obtaining what they needed to function effectively in ministry."

Golden Gate Seminary is one of six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and the sole SBC agency in the western United States.

--30--

Church places priority
on Vacation Bible School

By Jack Brymer

Baptist Press
9/10/93

LEESBURG, Fla. (BP)--While many churches have all but abandoned the traditional two-week Vacation Bible School, First Baptist Church in Leesburg, Fla., gives it priority -- and for good reason.

During the church's annual event the last two weeks in June, 1,459 children were enrolled, with 125 of them making a profession of faith in Christ and 50 being baptized.

"Vacation Bible School, Sunday school and apple pie are as Southern Baptist as you can get," said Charles Roesel, pastor of the church for 17 years. "We are continually doing new and creative things to reach people for Christ but we also try to do the old things unusually well," he said.

"Vacation Bible School is the most effective way to reach people for Jesus I know."

According to Roesel, one in six of the church's 300-plus annual baptisms for the past five years has come as a result of Vacation Bible School. But to be effective, he cautions, VBS must be given priority.

For the Leesburg church, that priority is expressed in two distinct areas -- budget and personnel.

"I don't ask how much its costs, but how much is it worth?" Roesel said, explaining the \$12,000 budget item for the ministry.

Likewise, according to Arthur "Art" Ayris Jr., associate pastor for evangelism and ministry and director of the VBS emphasis, there is total commitment from the staff.

"Everybody plays a part -- from the pastor to the secretaries," said Ayris, adding the pastor's secretary had a bus route.

VBS is given such a priority, according to Roesel, that the church calendar is cleared for those two weeks and staff members are not allowed to take vacation.

--more--

"Mr. Art," as he is called by the children, was quick to point out, however, that the No. 1 commitment to VBS comes from the pastor.

"He is a strong leader," Ayris said of Roesel. "The people of the church respect him and he allows you to prove yourself."

And prove himself Ayris has done, according to Roesel, pointing out significant growth in VBS under Ayris's leadership.

Ayris grew up in the church and was saved, baptized and licensed to the ministry under Roesel's guidance.

A graduate of Florida State University, he earned a degree in criminology, but was a public school teacher of emotionally disturbed and learning disabled students before joining the church staff.

With a clipboard and two-way radio, "Mr. Art" moved through the buildings -- which were a beehive of activity housing at the time the population of a small city -- observing the 200-plus volunteers.

"We are using every room in the facility, including the choir room," he said, pointing out on a massive chart the 41 departments handling the kindergarten through eighth grade children.

In addition to classroom teachers, there are 11 bus drivers -- most of whom double as a staffer in the program -- counselors, supply workers and even a mechanic to keep the eight buses and three vans operating safely.

In fact, Ayris said he is already concerned about next year since the program was "maxed out" this year. At the moment, he said he is considering dual sessions -- regular daytime schedule for kindergarten through fifth grade and a night session for middle and high school kids plus adults. The adult program would include workshops on such topics as marriage enrichment and would feature a Bible conference.

In addition to the traditional VBS activities, such as recreation, snack time and classroom work, the program featured a Christian film and a worship time in the sanctuary, which included a baptismal service four times each day.

The church continued its ministry throughout the summer in various other ways, including renting a local theater on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons to show Billy Graham films free of charge.

Ayris was quick to point out that much of the success of the VBS is traceable to the pastor who promotes it, motivates people to participate in it, prays for it and is a part of it every day.

"We don't have trouble getting VBS workers," Roesel said. "But you don't get them from a 'guilt trip.' It's a matter of 'get to' not 'got to.' Serving the Lord is a joy, not a burden. We 'get to' serve the Lord," he said.

HOUSE MAIL



BAPTIST PRESS

901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

HOUSE MAIL

So. Baptist Library & Archives
901 Commerce
Nashville, TN 37203